THE LOGGER'S
B A R K
1916 - RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA - 2016

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RCT Holiday Gathering and Awards Banquet Big Success

Reported by Rich KR7W

Thanks to a host of many club volunteers… the 2016 Club Holiday Party was held Sunday Dec 11 at the Scottish Rites Temple in Tacoma. It was a fun event for all who attended– even for the few grumpy QHB (Q signal for Humbug!) curmudgeons. A very tastey ham and turkey were provided by club members (unknown who to this reporter). A big THANKS to you! Lots of other potluck side dishes and deserts. Here's some of the club members who helped out to make the banquet possible: John AC7WW and YL Connie, George K7GRS, Diane W7SIM, Leonard KA7NWF, Dave W7UUU and YL Anne N7ANN, Mike W7MWF, Randy WB4SPB, Red WB7EC, Prez Gary WG7X. Gratitude goes to you.

There are many details of the many club member volunteers who served the radio club's purpose over year 2016. Along with the usual stuff that happens every year– this year includes the Centennial Celebration and the activities surrounding this special event. Keeping that in mind, the purpose of this article is to make note of club volunteers who stood out and the activities they performed to gain recognition by the radio club's management.

Prez. Gary WG7X, our Master of Ceremonies– making contacts with hams and their families at the microphone.

Kudos to Anne N7ANN and Dave W7UUU for arranging the nice Centennial Birthday Party at the Scottish Rite hall. Helpers, Red WB7EC, Leonard KA7NWF, Warren NG7G, John AC7WW es YL Connie.

Bruce WE7P and handyman Steve AF7YD for keeping the clubhouse and garage intact. In addition– Bruce is the go to guy for the Saturday hosts who open up the clubhouse for visitors. Kudos to Saturday hosts, too!

Randy WB4SPB stood out as the Field Day Czar and keeping the invaluable clubhouse network and PCs running flawlessly. Also Randy created the Field Day LAN that helped immensely with computer logging.

Our club has an award winning radio craft reference and lending library. Our library is superior due to Dr Doug AD7AV and George K7GRS.

Dave W7UUU and Anne N7ANN are recognized for providing interesting content and great refreshments at the second Wednesday club meetings at the Pierce Co. Library Center.

John AC7WW and Anne N7ANN first in line for some fine pot luck holiday food.

Property Management– the members who work almost in the background bring a lot of income to the club coffers by accepting equipment donations, selling items at various venues (Mike n Key Hamfest), provide club door prizes, sell on eBay, and more. Mike W7MWF has been the ring leader but in 2017 duties will be passed to Bruce WB7EC. Hats off to PMers– you know who you are.

Joe K7ZG and Randy WB4SPB manage the clubs log book and QSLs– an important tradition in ham radio – especially HF operations. But wait!... They also make sure the club website is up to date.

Tim White K7TMW and his crew manage and keep the club repeaters on the air.

Salmon Run Operations (W7DK on the Air) and the Pledge Drive (getting donations– paperwork) were handled by these volunteers: Al N7OMS, George K7GRS (paper work), Randy WB4SPB (techy stuff). Without these folks… there wouldn't be thousands of dollars donated to keep the club up and running. Also, because of these donations– the club has some pretty advanced equipment to promote the art of ham radio.

Paul "Cordon Bleu" W7PFU and Jan W7HTU (absent this day) were recognized for running a high scoring FOOD Station at Field Day and good eats at the Club House.

Steve AD7AB provided training to more than 70 students. Ninty percent of them achieved their Technician license. And Dave N7HT instructed about 10 students to test for their General Class license. And who gave the license tests? None other than John Clarke AC7WW and his team of Volunteer Examiners. Hats off to you for paying ham radio forward.

Thanks Gretta KF7KSW for sending me- as well as many other club members- a get well card when I was feeling down and healing up.

W7DK at the Fair puts ham radio and RCT in the lime light with a very nice display in the WA ST Fair Hobby Hall. Kudos to Steve AD7AB and his helpers for this big effort.

Gary WG7X is the 2 Meter Net control coordinator. Gary makes sure each Tuesday at 7:30 PM there is a NCO at the microphone to log check-ins on the 147.280 repeater. Thanks to the members

Randy WB4SPB and YL Sooz recognized for their joint participation in Straight Key Night as well as Randy's many mentioned accomplishments.

The 2016 Doc Spike Inspirational Award Winner is Steve Dightman AF7YD. Steve, is a previous Doc Spike Award winner and the only recipient to win twice. He has returned to RCT after a long hiatus. Steve participated in Field Day, the Digitization of club records effort, provides technical guidance and history lessons in a welcoming and inspiring way. Steve took on the thankless refurbishment of the club garage– a pretty big project– to demonstrate the art of volunteering. The Barkie welcomes Steve back into the club.

who volunteer to be Net Control.

Larry KD4VOM deserves a hat tip along with his folks who are digitally archiving the club's written history.

The Straight Key Night folks: Randy WB4SPB and YL Sooz, Pat WT7N and Rich KR7W, Mike W7MWF help pull it off.

Lastly Rich KR7W is the Museum Curator and publishes the club's monthly web based newsletter. Rich prefers to operate in the shadows at the clubhouse or from a mountain top or from the darkness of his basement ham shack.

Dear Readers: Please forgive me if I've forgotten you or someone who should get recognition. Many thanks and a ***Barkie Hats Off*** to Club Secretary Mike W7MWF for whom, from my view point, frayed his insulation down to gather stats, create all of the documentation needed for verbal delivery, and obtain plaques and prizes- to make the Annual Awards Banquet run smoothly for all attendees.

-Photos courtesy of Dave W7UUU-

Outgoing RCT Prez Gary is presented the Presidential Achievement Award by RCT Sec Mike W7MWF. Gary, WG7X has served as RCT president for six continuous years through 2016, has been the 2 Meter Net Coordinator for many years, a Field Day Station Manager, Bark Editor and contributor, The HF Station Manager, and model SSB contest operator at the microphone of W7DK.

Great Caesar's Ghost

BY RICH KR7W - BARK EDITOR

This Barkie issue marks 12 issues to go before my tenure of Newsletter Editor is up.

This volunteer job has been interesting and rewarding. I hope to bring more news regarding how you can experience volunteering at your radio club– in a future issue.

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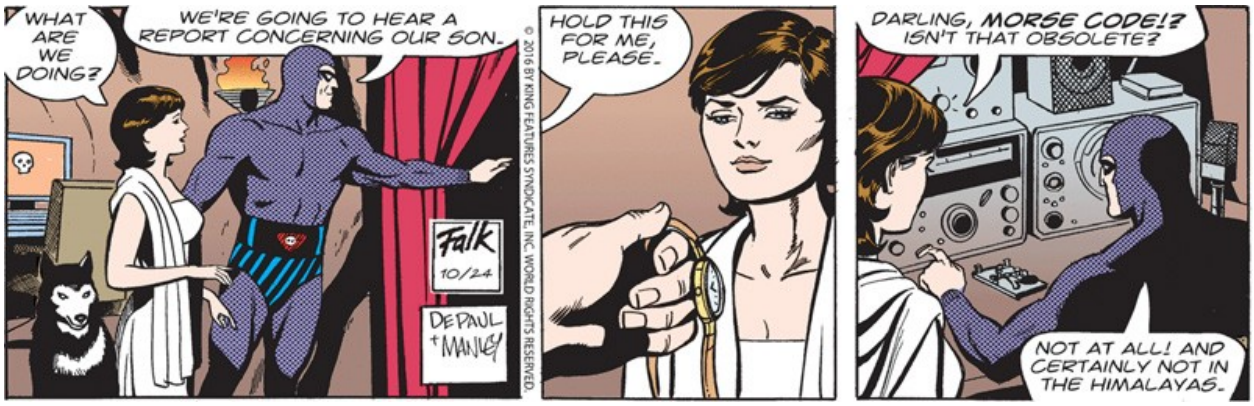
UpComing Notable Club Activities

12/23, Friday - All Day - **Celebrate FESTIVUS**
12/28, Weds 7:00 PM Clubhouse Activity Night
12/31, Sat 4:00 PM - Straight Key Night @ Clubhouse
01/01/2017 0000 -UTC - **Swearing in of RCT PREZ** —— @ Clubhouse during SKN Event
01/04, Weds, 7:00 PM Club Officers Board Meeting
See w7dk.org for more details….
01/10, Tues, 7:00 PM, VE Testing at Clubhouse
01/11, Weds, 7:00 PM Club Meeting at Library

The Doctor says: At Least Once a Week:
See w7dk.org for Club Events Updates


WHAT ARE WE DOING?
WE'RE GOING TO HEAR A REPORT CONCERNING OUR SON.
© 2016 BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC. WORLD RIGHTS RESERVED.
Falk 10/24
DEPAUL + MANLEY
HOLD THIS FOR ME, PLEASE.
DARLING, MORSE CODE!? ISN'T THAT OBSOLETE?
NOT AT ALL! AND CERTAINLY NOT IN THE HIMALAYAS.

Is Morse Code obsolete as Mrs Phantom thinks? Maybe, but a lot of ham radio operators are interested enough to keep asking me when there will be a Morse Code Class. No Class, but Yes— A Morse Code Study Group. Get the skinny, 411, QST on page 8 of this newsletter. Again, please note– it's not a class.

I have been noticing a lot of new members at the clubhouse when I look around. Attention: New folks at the Clubhouse - Please consider coming to the W7OS Museum Annual Straight Key Night (SKN) Celebration - Again see Page 8 - SKN is mostly a social event to hang out, share food, and chat with others but it is also where Morse operators get on the air with old museum equipment and make QSOs with fellow Morse ops to remember and respect where today's modern ham radio modes and equipment evolved from. The Phantom and his YL will be attending– so be sure to drop by.

HAMSHACKS OF THE MONTH

BY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

W6TT, Elvin from East Bay Section– Oakland, CA. Elvin's double rack (Depression Era Construction) has an 807 Crystal Oscillator—807 buffer/doubler— to a pair of 250THs at 800 watts input. There's a pair of 250THs in the AM modulator. The receive position boasts a Halicrafter SX-28 + SP44 Panadapter + the big R-12 (Jensen) Speaker. Elvin works CW and Phone in the ARRL DX and Sweepstakes 'tests.

This image came from QST magazine, Dec 1946, "Postwar Ham Shacks" column. Artistic liberty was taken.

This hamshack belonged to Club member Paul W7PFU when he was a budding Novice license holder in/around 1960. Under the clock is an EF Johnson Adventurer crystal controlled Novice Transmitter, The receiver is a Halicrafter SX-28. There's a popular with Novice ops– J38 telegraph key. [Ed note: Paul gave me a 2x3" tattered 2x3" black and white snapshot of this station. Via the magic of Photoshop– this image was extracted– with some artistic liberty taken.

Did You Know? Your hamshack image could be in a future issue of your club's newsletter. Email the editor for details.

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE INFO

There's a lot of activity in the Clubhouse each Saturday as well as other days of the week. On Saturdays the class room is usually filled with members discussing this and that with points being proved via Google using the PC with the new easier to see Monitor on the wall mounted Swingout Arm.

The classroom PC was recently upgraded to the RCT Standard Windows 7 Pro operating system via a generous donation from club member Bob AD7LJ. The upgrade allows for remote access for file and applications management by the IT department (and possibly will keep Russian Hackers out) as well as creating the ability to add a two monitor graphics adapter to support the new monitor as well as the digital overhead projector– which will make it much easier to give presentations.

Club member Dave Brooks N7HT has finished up his Upgrade to General class that took place on Monday evenings for approx 9 weeks. John Clarke AC7WW and his Volunteer Examiner team gave Dave's students their test on Dec 5.

Beginning in January 9, 2017, club member Rich KR7W plans on hosting a Morse Code Study group on Monday evenings. More detail about this undertaking is elsewhere in this newsletter issue.

Member AF7YD, aka Handyman Steve, installed the last bits of custom wooden trim to the garage rehabilitation project to button it up for the winter season. The south and west sides of the garage have a coat of protective paint. The remaining sides need paint along with possibly the entry door jamb needs replacement. The good thing is that the garage is quite weather proof courtesy of Steve's effort. A double tip of the Barkie Hat goes out to Steve.

More improvements- Now that club member Al N7OMS has retired from the 'working class' he has won approval from club management to fund his project: to replace the lighting in the Jerry HF station room. The preliminary plan is to add 7 recessed can (pot) lights in the ceiling that will be controlled by two wall switches similar to the Museum. Painting the walls, installing mop board molding and trimming out the window casing will enhance the look. After this work is complete then Phase 3 of the project to upgrade the HF station operating station desk will commence. (see Nov 2016 Bark, ***page 5*** for details). **Click LINK Here**

4th Wednesday Clubhouse Meeting: December 28th at 7 p.m.
"Welcome to the World of Amateur Radio", primarily focused on topics for newer licensees. 'Older' hams are invited to attend and share their knowledge and experiences.

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE INFO

W7OS MUSEUM REPORT.... BY RICH KR7W

The Museum space is becoming cluttered and hard to move around inside. Our excuse is that we are busy focusing on the restoration of the WW2 Vintage Halicrafters SX-28 Receiver Project. Not to worry– we'll be tidying up soon because the receiver is getting close to being done (we think). Also, the Straight Key Night Celebration is approaching.

After testing tubes, some rewiring, replacing more than 60 bad components over the past 7 weeks… On Saturday, Dec 15, at about 11:00 AM— The SX-28 carcass was rolled over to be right side up- and AC power was applied. **Uh Oh!** No desired action. No dial lights. No sound. Two loud heart beats. Trouble shooting began with the 87 pound chassis rotated 90 degrees up. AC input power lowered to 20 Volts for safety. Probe this, test that, follow the circuit… then Eagle Eye Chuck AC7QN spotted the problem. Lack of solder blobs on the AC Power Switch wires. Ceremonial Solder Smoke was breathed by the anxious on lookers, the receiver lowered back down, AC Power applied, and IT LIGHTS UP, IT'S ALIVE!

We listened to some nice sounding AM Broadcast Band audio with a short wire antenna. Scratchy Volume and RF Gain controls were sprayed. Then the clubhouse 40 Meter Dipole was attached and we tuned in to hear many SSB and CW signals from the Radio Amateur Canada contest event. "Thanks, Five - Nine Alberta Old Man".

Ole Bill, All lit up - playing Hi-Fi 880 Kc AM Broadcast Holiday Music. It gives a warm n fuzzy feeling - this 110 watt heat source.

There's still lots to do. More components to check and replace, clean rotating switch contacts, clean up control knobs and front panel, replace one or more dial strings, and perform RF alignment per the Military Tech Manual. It's sort of like the last stretch of completing a house that's being built– the finishing touches take the most time and careful effort.

Since the theme of this newsletter is **giving thanks** and recognition- **The Museum Regulars shout out, Thanks to the many club members** who stopped by the Museum on Saturdays to show an interest in the project, to ask and learn about the Old WW2 Receiver– how we were progressing, which old transmitter will be pared up with it, and much other interest. Also, thanks for those who saw that I had my head down in the chassis attempting to move the spleen outa the way in order to transplant the gall bladder– and then quietly retreated and closed the Museum door.

The Big Announcement Page

Straight Key Night Celebration - A Nice Social Event

What: W7OS Museum Celebration of ARRL's Straight Key Night Event
When: Saturday Dec 31 @ 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM - Local Time
Where: RCT Clubhouse
Why: Celebrate our Elmers– going back to the roots of ham radio– by making CW QSOs with hams across America and Canada– the old timey way.

Click HERE for ARRL SKN Info: http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night

Important Note: Participants do not need to know Morse Code to have a good time. Stop by the Museum stations and observe how QSOs were made back then using old radios from back then.

New SKN Tradition: Official Swearing in of the Club President Ceremony Jan 1, 2017 @ 0000 UTC.

If there is interest– well play some Morse Code BINGO.

Your hosts will provide Take N Bake Pizza from Papa Murphy's, paper plates, napkins, sodas and bottled water. If you'd like to bring something to share– an easy to clean up dessert works best for the hosts and helpers.

Morse Code Study Group to Commence in January for Six Weeks

Rich KR7W is hosting a **STUDY GROUP** for amateur radio ops who wish to **learn** or wish to **improve** their Morse Code abilities. Study Group?? – what's that about?

A study group is a group of like minded individuals of varying levels of expertise who want to learn and share their knowledge of a specific subject matter in a group setting.

Note that this is not a class, but an environment to help each other with the art of Morse Code and making Morse Code QSOs. The Brand Newbie can learn about the best learning tools and methods. The beginner can practice with hams of equal skill levels. The advanced Morse ham can learn by assisting and sharing their skills with less knowledgeable group members.

When: Beginning Monday, January 9, 2017 at 6:30 PM. Duration is 6 Weeks.
Where: RCT Clubhouse
What to bring?
Serious beginner: Laptop to download software. Also Spiral Notebook and pen
Advanced Beginner who knows the characters: Pad and Pen. Code Oscillator and Key.
Advanced Code Ninja: Patience and willingness to assist others.

Got questions? Email me: 599kr7w at Gmail dot com

CLUB MEETING TRAFFIC

Contributed by Club Secretary, Mike W7MWF

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2016

Meeting called to order at 1900 PDT by Vice President Mike W7XTZ

Officers and Directors Present

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board	Alan Ferguson N7OMS
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Bob Jamison KE7WPK

Quorum A quorum was seated. There were 16 names on the attendance roster, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Silent Key or Illness? Mary Kelley formerly W7SKR RCT #317 passed on October 5, peacefully, at Panorama City. Casey Hicks WY7V former Vice President is in failing health. Arrangements will be made for the Sunshine Committee to send appropriate correspondence.

Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2016 Board Meeting. Approval omitted due to administrative oversight. (we forgot to vote on it).

Secretary's Report (W7MWF) Correspondence: Salmon Run pledges, ballots, dues renewals, utility bills, subscriptions and QSL Cards. Mike also reminded all that elections will be held next week November 9 at the General Meeting.

Treasurer's Report (W7XTZ) No Report

Committee / Reports

Multiple Reports (K7GRS) George addressed Salmon Run 2016 results, nearly equal to 2015 receipts.. He also brought the Board up to date on the migration to the USPS IntelligentMail systems and indicated it was beneficial to the process of mass mailings. George provided an overview of the YMLP Mass Email Distribution process and is pleased with it. However, he encouraged other members to evaluate other systems if they so wanted. He reported current membership is 286.

George is hoping to be relieved of some of the load he is carrying and is working with Mike W7MKE to transition some of the tasks to him.

Training The next Technician Class will be held November 5/6, 2016.

Info Tech Randy WB4SPB reported "All systems are nominal".

Library In his earlier report, George advised that operations are nominal. He reminded that books should only be re-shelved by Library Committee members.

HF Operations Good utilization of the HF stations was noted.

Repeater Ops All repeater operations were reported as functioning and useable.

Facilities Mgmt Steve AF7YD reported good progress on the garage rehabilitation, and that trim, gutter installation, and final painting was all that remained to be completed.

Property Mgmt Mike W7MWF reported that the PMT is conducting year-end inventory reconciliation.

Museum Rich KR7W advised that the W7OS Museum gurus are rebuilding a 1940s Hallicrafters SX-70 receiver. He also advised that a new heater and thermostat had been installed and were working as designed.

Weds Activity Nite Because the November "4WAN" falls on Thanksgiving Eve, it was announced that it will not be held this month.

General Mtg Dave W7UUU sez "The General Meeting program for November will be "Ham Radio Movie Night" since it's election night and focus will be on that. Anne will make her usual big bin of popcorn."

Unfinished Business The Holiday party will be held December 11, 2016 from 11:30 am until evening, again at the Scottish Rite Temple on Vassault Street. It will be a pot-luck with meats and beverages provided by the club and selected members. Anne N7ANN and Dave W7UUU will be our host and hostess.

New Business

Rich KR7W will present a plan and proposal for the modernization of the Computer user interfaces for the Classroom, Lou Room, and Jerry Room workstations. Board members have been provided a copy of this proposal. It was moved, seconded, and passed to authorize $900 for completion of Stages 1 & 2 of the project, to wit: the Classroom and the Lou Room. A copy of Rich's proposal is filed with these minutes.

Activity Reports and Discussion Topics

Centennial Events Randy reported over 400 contacts made during the W7DK/100 special event. Many QSL cards are coming in the mail. The Centennial Banquet was deemed a huge success by all, and thanks were extended to Dave and Anne for their hard work.

Century Club The status and purpose of the Century Club was restated. It was originally devised as both a means to recognize special contributors, and as a way to offset the cost of restoration of the Club's original ARRL Charter. Since the preservation of the original document was less costly than originally expected, the Board directed that surplus funds generated through the Century Club be designated for future archival projects of club documents, keepsakes, and other similar paraphernalia. Al N7OMS will be the main point of contact for this program, and Mike W7MWF will accept subscriptions and assist Al

in maintaining the list of donors. The Membership Committee will be advised of progress so that they can note Century Club participation on the member's record.

Announcements It was decided that W7DK would participate in the 2016 ARRL Phone Sweepstakes to be held November 19 and 20. Al N7OMS will keep the Clubhouse open until midnight on the Saturday of the event, and Mike W7MWF will open it up at 0800 local time on Sunday. It will remain open until the end of the event or lack of operators.

Anne N7ANN would like to ease out of being Net Control for the 1st Tuesday 2-meter net. They will be holding auditions over the next few months for prospective members who show interest.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 2035 PDT.

End of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes…

Radio Club of Tacoma
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2016

Meeting called to order at 1930 PST by Vice President Mike W7XTZ at the Pierce County Library Administration Building.

Officers and Directors Present

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board	Bruce Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike W7XTZ

Final Call for Ballots Outstanding ballots were solicited and collected, and voting was closed.

Appointment of Election Committee Mike W7XTZ appointed Randy WB4SPB, Leonard KA7NWF and Diane W7SIM as the Election Committee. They retired to count ballots.

Welcome— Guests introduced were Ted W7KM and Lloyd Extra Class ham, no license assigned yet.

New Calls – None reported.

Self-Introductions were done. There were 41 names on the attendance roster, a copy of which is filed with these minutes

utility bills, QSL Cards, a couple of Salmon Run pledges. Also ballots and membership renewals.

Treasurer's Report (W7XTZ)

The Field Day Pig was passed around. Mike W7XTZ reported lots of incoming dues and Salmon Run payments.

Committee / Activity Reports

Centennial Celebration Banquet Report by Dave W7UUU and Anne N7ANN

W7DK/100 Report by Adam W2NCC

Century Club Report by Mike W7MWF

Membership George reported that membership stands at 297 and that Salmon Run receipts are within $100 of last year's total. He also advised the membership that Mike W7MKE was assisting with the membership, mailing and fund raising efforts as George hopes to ease away from some of the tasks.

VE Report John AC7WW reported that 37 elements from 19 candidates were graded at last night's VE session. VEs assisting were Jan K7HTU, John AD7AW, Rich KK7VH, Mike W7XH, Stephen AD7AB, Phil K7PIA and himself.

HF Operations Mike W7MWF reported that ARRL Phone Sweepstakes will be held on November 19/20. The Clubhouse will be open until midnight on Saturday and re-open on Sunday morning at 0800.

Repeater Ops Anne N7ANN is soliciting volunteers to begin service as Net Control for the 1st Tuesday 2 meter net. Please see Anne or Dave W7UUU or Gary WG7X if you are interested.

Facilities Management Steve AF7YD reported on status of the garage rehabilitation. All that remains to be done is some trim work, gutter hanging, and a bit of painting. Steve received a big round of applause for a job well-done.

Property Management Mike W7MWF reported that year-end reconciliation of records in progress.

Museum It was reported that the Museum crew is restoring a Hallicrafters SX-28 (circa 1940) and that the installation of new baseboard heaters and thermostat in the museum has been completed

Library George K7GRS reminded everyone that the library is a great resource, has a new research computer, and to please not re-shelve the books (let the library staff do it).

4th Weds Activity Night is cancelled for November. The event normally scheduled for the 4th Wednesday, November 23 is Thanksgiving Eve. This event will resume in December.

Program The General Meeting program for November was an entertaining and inspiring (go jump off of a tower with a parachute) "Ham Radio Movie Night". Anne furnished a big bin of popcorn, beverages, and other theater snack bar treats.

Election Committee Report The Election Committee reported the following individuals had been elected for two-year terms beginning January 1, 2017:

For President	Dave Ellison W7UUU
For Treasurer	Steve Dightman AF7YD
For Board Position	Red Cranefield WB7EC
For Board Position	Phil Pia K7PIA

A copy of the tally sheets are filed with these minutes. Ballots will be retained until November 30, 2016 then destroyed.

Unfinished Business and Announcements

At the BOD meeting on November 7, Rich KR7W presented a plan to improve the computer workstations and user interfaces in the classroom, the Lou Room, and the Jerry Room (HF Room). The BOD approved expenses of up to $900 for the implementation of Phases 1 and 2 of the project, to be managed by Rich KR7W.

Upcoming potential facility projects include (1) review and repair of station grounding and (2) repair/replacement of lighting fixtures in the Jerry room.

Holiday Party will be held at the Scottish Rite Temple on December 11 from 11 am until 4 pm. Potluck items requested. Turkey/ham/beverages will be provided by RCT or designated volunteers.

Show and Tell Paul W7PFU reported he has a new super-duper radio but has not yet unpacked it. Stand by for a report next month!

Tuning and Traffic None reported

Door Prize The door prize, an assortment of tools and gadgets, was won by Paul W7PFU

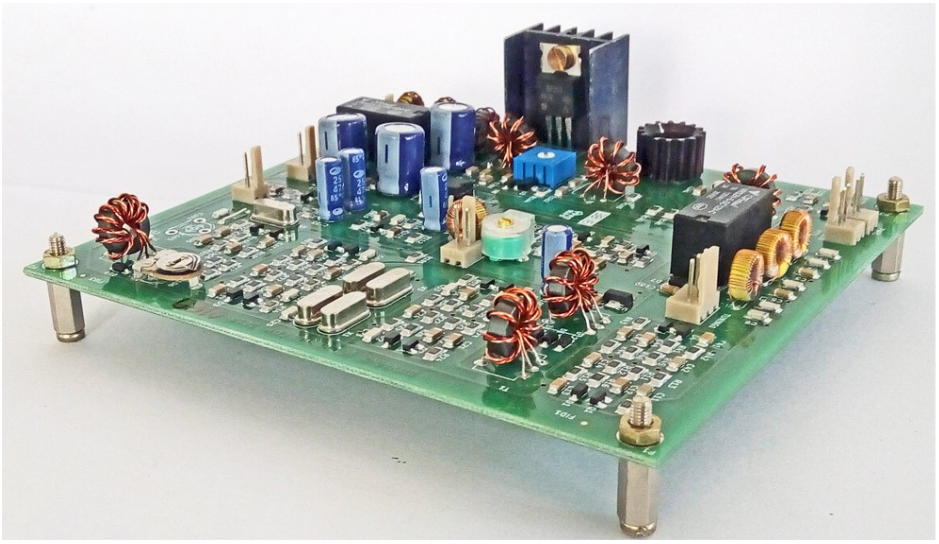
Raffle The raffle prize, a handy little swr/pwr meter, was won by Mike W7MWF

TNT THE NEW THING

WHAT'S NEW AND NOTABLE IN HAM RADIO?

CONTRIBUTIONS BY READERS LIKE YOU

The $45 SSB Transceiver - It's Not a Kit… Some Easy Assembly is Required



Back in 2003 an Indian ham, Ashhar Farhan VU2ESE who has an international reputation as a 'home brewer builder' designed the BitX "open source" SSB QRP transceiver. It uses ready available components so that it could be built by almost anyone using dead bug construction techniques for an extremely reasonable price. Since VU2ESE first published this circuit– his design has been taken and enhanced, presented in kit form and modified to include different bands by multiple radio amateurs and sold by QRP kit providers like Hendrix QRP Kits.

Just recently a new 40 Meter BitX SSB QRP 7 watt transceiver kit is on the market from a company founded by VU2ESE himself. Each circuit board is hand assembled, all components installed– including hand wound toroids by a collective of women in India. This work provides these women with their livelihood. Included in the kit are microphone, tuning and volume potentiometer controls, high quality connectors, needed sockets, and jacks. You provide the antenna and 12 Volt 2 amp DC power source.

The transceiver design is completely analog– no Arduino or DDS generated VFO or digital readout. It has many updated circuits and VFO tuning with a potentiometer and large surface-mount components for easy modification (if the builder chooses to). Just like with the original circuit– there is lots of documentation via blog sites and Yahoo group support. The kit costs $45 shipped from India.

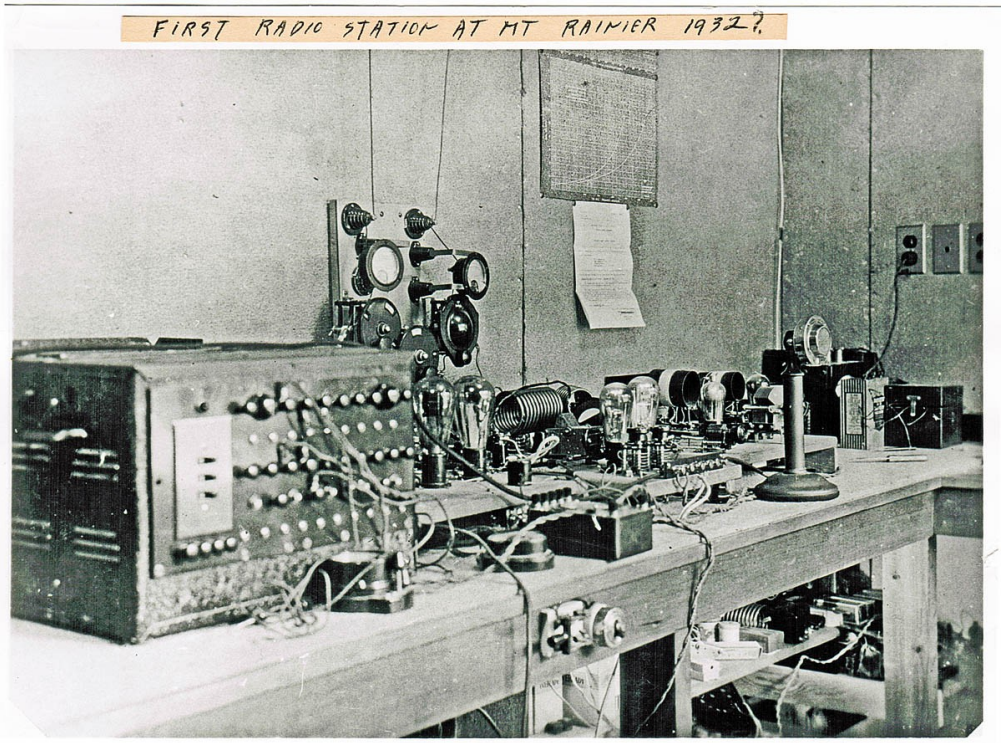
Learn about it, buy it here: BitX 40 Website: **http://www.hfsigs.com/**

VK3YE (A notable QRP home builder) Youtube Video Reivew:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EvA6Q6C2rE&t=3s

VU2ESE Youtube Demo: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnpbzsQP6B8&t=142s**

It'd be great if a group of club members got together and each bought a BitX 40 to learn from each others experiences. 30 73 SK CL KR7W

The Logger's Bark Photo Page



Mt Rainier was the first National Park to Pioneer using Radio to communicate from the Park HQ at Longmire to the Back Country. The best guess date of this set up is 1932 - which coincides with supporting documentation from the book, "The Administrative History of Mt Rainier National Park".

The equipment on the bench is about the same as what is shown in a 1932 ARRL Handbook. It's surmised that the the power supply is under the bench, there's some batteries in the far corner, the Receiver is behind the microphone, the Transmitter-Exciter (copper tubing coils) is most likely a (before Crystal Controlled) MOPA - is L and in back of the Mic. The Antenna (Tuner) coupler is on the wall with vertical wires emanating from it. Perhaps the Cabinet houses the modulator– but it could be the power supply. What's your opinion? Please let me know. Lastly– the Final RF Amp is just R of the cabinet

The history book mentioned that the Back Country portable radios weighed in at 50 pounds– but that was when park personnel used pack animals to assist ferrying loads into the wilderness. Now a days backcountry folks use a 13 ounce handy talky.

Straight Key Night

Is Sat 12/31 at the W7OS Museum.

4:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Image shows CT, N7UH operating the 80 meter station during the 2012 Straight Key Night.

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

1916 - 2016

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

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CLUB OFFICERS

President: Gary McAdams WG7X 253-984-0868 email to wg7x @ w7dk.org
Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ email to w7xtz @ w7dk.org
Secretary: Mike Finnie email to w7mwf @ w7dk.org
Treasurer: Vacant. Mike W7XTZ Acting Treasurer w7xtz@w7dk.org

5 BOARD MEMBERS

Al Ferguson N7OMS email to n7oms @ w7dk.org
Red Cranefield WB7EC email to bruce-ec @ hotmail.com
Bruce Hanson WE7P email to we7p @ w7dk.org
Bob Jamison KE7WPKemail to ke7wpk@w7dk.org
Paul Matney email to w7pfu@w7dk.org

LOGGER'S BARK STAFF

Editor: Rich Patrick KR7W
Contributors: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma
Send articles to: 599kr7w@gmail.com Bark, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98111

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RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma:	147.280 + PL=103.5	
Crawford Mountain	147.380 + PL=103.5	(E of Olympia @ 1500 ft ASL)
Central Tacoma:	440.625 + PL=103.5	
North Tacoma:	145.21 – PL=141.3	

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.